

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army National Guard's acting director tours 30th annual Golden Coyote exercise

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard, visited Camp Rapid to tour the 30th annual Golden Coyote training exercise hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard, June 11, in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Lyons, along with Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and other key leadership flew to some of the training locations for Golden Coyote to get an overview of operations and see the training in action.

“The way that the South Dakota National Guard has organized Golden Coyote offers several different opportunities for participating units,” Lyons said. “A unit commander that participates has the opportunity to design his or her own training objectives and tap into some great training areas, support and support staff, which allows a commander to focus on his or her goals.”

With the National Guard's dual mission of supporting both state governors in peacetime missions and reporting to the president in federal or wartime situations, being prepared for a wide variety of warrior tasks is essential.

Col. Tim Moran, SDNG deputy chief of staff of operations, said the Golden Coyote exercise has a unique theme that gives units an advantage when it comes to annual training.

“If I had to use one phrase I would use ‘unsanitized environment,’” Moran said. “It’s not scripted so that at 10 p.m. the opposition force will attack at this location with this many people; it’s based on what the units want to train on in this unsanitized environment. You won’t get that specialization at other events.”

With the National Guard being better trained, equipped and more heavily relied upon than ever, providing quality training opportunities is vital to maintaining combat and support readiness for any scenario.

Lyons said in order to maintain this level of commitment it’s vital to provide high quality-training events.

“We have to continue to offer these types of opportunities,” said Lyons. “I believe home-station training is important; it definitely has a role, but in order for us to keep our Soldiers engaged in what they’re doing we have to give them different opportunities in different locations to exercise their military occupational skills and collective training, and Golden Coyote is a great example of that.”

According to Moran, visiting Golden Coyote may help Lyons and staff at National Guard Bureau in upcoming plans for training troops as deployments draw down and the Guard shifts to more stateside focused missions.

“(Lyons) got to see the capabilities of what this exercise brings to Guard units across the nation,” Moran said. “He will do a mental assessment and it will help him make future decisions on how to train those units. Now he will know what Golden Coyote brings; especially in reference to using scarce resources and funding for units to be able to travel to this exercise.”

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



140611-Z-WA247-165: Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard, and Col. Andy L. Hall, chief of operations division, tour Forward Operating Base Custer, in Custer State Park, S.D., during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 11, 2014. Lyons visited Golden Coyote to get insight on the operations and training happening in the Black Hills during the exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald/RELEASED)



130611-Z-WA247-056: Members of the Danish Home Guard Force Protection Platoon conduct joint operations with Soldiers from the 860th Military Police Company, Arizona Army National Guard, of Tucson, Ariz., at West Camp Rapid during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 10, 2014, in Rapid City, S.D. National Guard, Reserve and international forces use the exercise as an opportunity to conduct joint training in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald/RELEASED)



140611-Z-WA247-037: Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons (right), acting director of the Army National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, meet with Mr. Bryan Brewer, Oglala Sioux Tribe President, at a drop point on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for the timber haul mission during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 11, 2014. The timber haul mission involved hauling raw lumber to a number of towns within the reservation to help support the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Lyons visited Golden Coyote to get insight on the operations and training happening here in the Black Hills during the exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald/RELEASED)



140611-Z-WA247-419: During his tour of the Golden Coyote training exercise, Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard, visits with Spc. Patrick Irvin, 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Missouri National Guard, about tactical operations center procedures on Camp Rapid, S.D., June 11, 2014. The 110th MEB served as the higher headquarters for field training exercises throughout Golden Coyote. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald/RELEASED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.